Message Text

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USEEC

E.O.11642:N/A TAGS: ETRD. EEC

SUBJECT: EC ANTI-DUMPING INVESTIGATION ON KRAFT LINER

REF: 77 BRUSSELS 19261

- 1. IN CONVERSATION WITH MISSION OFFICER JANUARY 12 HANS BESELER EC COMMISSION OFFICIAL IN CHARGE OF ANTI-DUMPING, OFFERED FURTHER DETAILS ON COMMISSION THINKING ON KRAFT LINER INVESTIGATION. BESELER ALSO STATED THAT, FOR CONVENIENCE, HE HAD NO OBJECTION TO STATE DEPARTMENT DISTRIBUTION OF COMPLAINT TO INTERESTED PARTIES IN U.S.
- 2. BESELER STATED THAT, ALTHOUGH FRENCH HAVE NOT YET ASKED FOR IMMEDIATE IMPOSITION OF PROVISIONAL DUTIES, THIS MIGHT COME AT ANY TIME. BECAUSE FRENCH PRESSURE IS SO STRONG, BESELER SAID THERE WOULD BE NO POSSIBILITY OF A DELAY IN THE 30-DAY PERIOD FOR RESPONDING TO THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTIONNAIRE.

3. BESELER SAID THAT, SHOULD DUMPING BE FOUND, THE COMMISSION COULD EITHER IMPOSE A SINGLE DUTY ON ALL U.S. EXPORTS OF KRAFT LINER OR, IF DUMPING MARGINS DIFFER SIGNIFICANTLY FROM FIRM TO FIRM, APPLY DIFFERENT DUTIES FOR VARIOUS FIRMS. IN PAST CASES, COMMISSION HAS

IMPOSED DUTY ON BOTH OF THESE BASES. (BESELER CONFIRMED THAT NO PREVIOUS INVESTIGATION HAD INVOLVED U.S. FIRMS). HE ADDED THAT BECAUSE OF THE GREAT DIFFICULTY IN DISTINGUISHING KRAFT LINER PRODUCED BY ONE FIRM FROM THAT OF ANOTHER, HE LEANED TOWARD A SINGLE DUTY BUT THAT QUESTION WOULD NOT BE RESOLVED UNTIL LATER IN THE INVESTIGATION.

DUTIES WOULD BE BASED ON DIFFERENCE BETWEEN WEIGHTED AVERAGE OF HOME MARKET AND EXPORT PRICES DURING PERIOD INVESTIGATED AND WOULD REMAIN APPLICABLE UNTIL EVIDENCE HAD BEEN PROVIDED THAT SUCH MARGINS HAD BEEN ELIMINATED.

- 4. SHOULD DUMPING BE FOUND, AND IN THE CONTINUED ABSENCE OF ANY PROVISIONAL DUTY, THE DUMPING DUTIES WOULD START ON THE DAY OF PUBLICATION OF THE COMMISSION FINDING. DUTIES WOULD NOT BE RETROACTIVE.
- 5. IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATION JANUARY 13 WITH TREASURY DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY EHRENHAFT, BESELER SAID HE WOULD BE WILLING TO AT LEAST CONSIDER REQUESTS FOR TIME EXTENSION ON ANSWERING QUESTIONNAIRE IF FIRMS WERE ABLE TO PROVIDE CONVINCING EVIDENCE THAT DELAY WAS NECESSITATED BY DESIRE TO RESPOND FULLY AND THAT SERIOUS EFFORT TO DO SO WAS ALREADY UNDERWAY. HINTON

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